

SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS

Applicant respectfully provides this amended response as a result of receiving the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed April 11, 2002. As shown, Applicants have now provided both a clean and a marked-up version of the amendments made to the specification paragraphs. The changes made to the specification are now believed to be easily shown. Applicants apologize for this concern and note that they will respond promptly to any additional questions the Examiner may have.

No changes to this amendment have been made other than minor changes to correct the form of the amendment according to §1.121 and fix minor spelling errors noted during the review. The essence of the original timely amendment remains the same, as can be seen through simple comparison. No additional fees are believed to be due, but the below authorization is noted.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. New independent claims 6 and 7 have been added. Claims 3-5 have been amended to be dependent upon new claim 6.

The specification is amended to correct minor errors. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments is found in the original claims, specification, and drawings.

1. Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by

AMENDMENT

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CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicants propose respectfully that they have responded to each and every rejection and objection raised by the Examiner in this case.

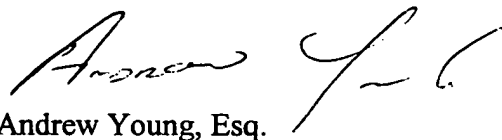
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4550.

No new matter has been added.

In the spirit of condensed and streamlined practice, if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned counsel at the number listed below for prompt response.

Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrew Young, Esq.
Registration No. 44,001
Attorney for Applicant

The Morrison Building
145 North Fifth Avenue
Mount Vernon, New York 10550
(914) 667-6755

Date: 4/17/02

Attached: **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE TITLE:**

Kindly cancel the present title and substitute: **ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER HAVING EXHAUST AIR RETURN FEATURE.**

IN THE DRAWING:

Applicant kindly acknowledged Examiners's comments on the drawings. The specification has been amended to make the necessary corrections.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Kindly amend and replace the paragraph from line 23, page 8 to page 9, line 6, as follows:

Referring now also to Fig. 18, on the other end of first extension pipe 40 (on the side connecting with second extension pipe 41), a clamp 46 similar to clamp 37 of handle pipe 33 connects first extension pipe 40 to second extension pipe 41. A cover 40a is attached unitarily on the outer surface on the side of suction tube part 42. A pushing part 47, or push button, on one end of clamp 46 is exposed through an opening [49] shown at the upper surface of cover 40a. A hook 48 on the other end of clamp 46 is spring-biased inward into its normally locking position with a latching depression 53, as shown in Fig. 18. Pushing part 47 is pivoted by the user by pressing on pushing part 47 to lever hook 48 upward out of engagement with latching depression 53.

Kindly amend and replace the second full para. on page 12, line 11, as follows:

Pivoting pipe 75 allows for pivoting vertical movement with respect to suction tool body 57. Pivoting pipe 75 forms a suction pipe part 76 that is continuous from the end that is connected to a connection pipe 79 (described later) to the other end that is sandwiched by suction tool body 57. [A n] An exhaust channel 77 coincides with an exhaust path 81 of connection pipe 79 (described later) on an outer perimeter part of suction pipe part 76 on one end of pivoting pipe 75.

Kindly amend and replace the third full para. on page 12, line 17, as follows:

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Hollow [axle] shaft 78 is formed on the other end of pivoting pipe 75 in communication with exhaust channel 77. By having [axle] shaft 78 pivotably supported by axle supporting parts 66, 66 of upper case 55 and lower case 56, exhaust channel 77 of pivoting pipe 75 and exhaust space 67 of suction tool body 57 are in communication.

Kindly amend and replace the para. from line 22 page 12 to line 2 page 13, as follows:

Connection pipe 79 is connected to pivoting pipe 75 in a manner allowing for pivoting in the circumferential direction. Connection pipe 79 is constructed from a suction path 80 that communicates with suction pipe part 76 of pivoting pipe 75 and an exhaust path 81. Exhaust path [81 is] 81 is formed unitarily on the outer perimeter of suction path 80 in communication with exhaust tube part 45 of second extension pipe 41. A cover member 82, fitted on a lower portion of connection pipe 79, forms a part of exhaust path 81.

Kindly amend and replace the third full para. from page 13, line 13, as follows:

Referring now to Figs. 9 and 10, terminals 106 are affixed on the upper surface of connection pipe 75 on the side with second extension pipe 41. Feeder lines 107 have one end connected to terminals 106. A connector 108, connected to the other end of feeder lines 107, is affixed to control board 105. Feeder lines 107 [are] pass through exhaust channel 77, hollow shaft 78, and exhaust space 67 to reach control board 105. To prevent breaking of wire due to pivoting of pivoting pipe 75 and connection pipe 79, feeder lines 107 are wired with more slack than the distance that pivoting pipe 75 and connection pipe 79 pivot.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1 and 2. Add new independent claims 6 and 7. Amend claims 3-5 to be dependent upon new claim 6, as shown.

3. (Amended) A vacuum cleaner according to claim [1]6, wherein air in said air circulation exhaust path is directed in said floor suction tool toward said rotation brush in a direction to augment rotation of said rotation brush.

4. (Amended) An electric vacuum cleaner according to claim [1]6, wherein:
said floor suction tool includes a suction tool body, a pivoting pipe movable up and down with respect to said suction tool body, a connection pipe pivotable in a circumferential direction with respect to said pivoting pipe;
said air circulation exhaust path passing through said suction tool body, said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe;
said feeder lines passing along said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe;
said feeder lines have a slack in the vicinity of said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe; and
said slack exceeding a pivoting distance of said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe.

5. (Amended) An electric vacuum cleaner according to claim [1]6, wherein exhaust air is guided to said rotation brush in a rotation direction of said rotation brush.

6. An electric vacuum cleaner comprising:
a vacuum cleaner body containing a motorized fan;
a flexible hose connected to said vacuum cleaner body;
an extension pipe connected to said flexible hose;
a floor suction tool connected to said extension pipe, said tool containing a rotation brush and a motor for rotating said brush;
an exhaust path disposed in said vacuum cleaner body to guide an exhaust of said motorized fan into said flexible hose;
a path disposed in said flexible hose to communicate with said exhaust path in said vacuum cleaner body;
a path disposed in said extension pipe to communicate with said path in said flexible hose;
a path disposed in said floor suction tool to communicate with said path in said extension pipe;
said paths constituting an air circulation guide path passing from said body along said hose and said pipe to said tool;
said air circulation guide path including an air filter whereby the air in said guide path is clean air;

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electric lines from said body to said motor for rotating said rotation brush, said electric lines passing along said air guide path whereby said electric lines are protected from contaminants in air moving therepast.

Claim 7. An electric vacuum cleaner having a motorized fan with an exhaust outlet and a suction outlet and comprising:

an elongated hose device having an inner hollow hose disposed in spaced apart relationship with an outer hollow hose;

means connected to one end of said hose device for connecting the inner hose to the suction inlet of the fan and connecting the outer hose to the exhaust outlet of the fan;

an elongated extension pipe device having an inner hollow conduit disposed in spaced relationship within an outer hollow conduit, one end of the pipe device being connected to the other end of the hose device with the inner conduit connected to the inner hose and thus connected by the inner hose to the suction inlet of the fan and the outer conduit connected to the outer hose and thus being connected to the exhaust outlet of the fan; and

a floor suction tool connected to the other end of the pipe device, said tool having a suction port connected to the inner hollow conduit of the pipe device and thus being connected to the suction inlet of the fan, said tool having an exhaust port connected to the outer hollow conduit of the pipe device and thus being connected to the exhaust outlet of the fan.